(a) whether Government has decided to withdraw a Tea Board project introduced in 2004, for training to small tea growers;

(b) if so, the targets fixed and achievements so far under the scheme; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is supporting training programmes for the various stakeholders — managerial personnel in tea gardens, workers and small growers through the ongoing Human Resource Development Scheme of Tea Board. A special training on modern aspects of tea growing is organized for the small tea growers representing Self Help Groups (SHGs) who, in turn, on completion of the training, are expected to impart training to other members of the SHG. Besides meeting the training fee, the boarding and lodging cost for the training period is fully met by the Board. Against the Eleventh Plan financial target of Rs. 12.50 crore for the aforementioned training programmes, an expenditure of Rs. 1.40 crore has been incurred during the period from 1st April, 2007 to October, 2009 by providing training to 24,116 growers.

Growth in export earnings

2165. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commerce Ministry has pointed that exports turn over this year would be $175 billion with give or take five to 10 billion;

(b) if so, the total exports earning so far during 2009 and to what extent there will be improvement in 2010; and

(c) whether Government is confident that exports will further improve and what steps are being taken to improve position further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Government has set merchandise export target of US$ 200 billion by March, 2011. As per the quick estimates of DGCI&S, India's merchandise exports from April, 2009 to October, 2009 had been US$ 91.048 billion. While the impact of global recession is still continuing on our exports, quick estimates of DGCI&S indicate that there has been a progressive reduction in the rate of decline in export growth in dollar terms from May, 2009 to October, 2009. Government is committed to revive the growth in exports. Government is closely monitoring the trend in exports growth and the export potential and is reviewing the progress on continuous basis. Accordingly, need based appropriate measures are taken, keeping in view the financial implications.